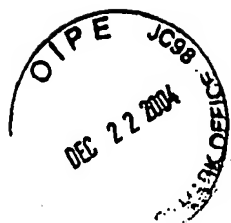


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**RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE REQUESTED
EXAMINING GROUP 3731**

PATENT

Customer No. 22,852

Attorney Docket No. 07883.0111

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)	
)	
Robert Edward KOHLER et al.)	Group Art Unit: 3731
)	
Application No.: 10/052,156)	Examiner: U. T. HO
)	
Filed: January 16, 2002)	
)	
For: ENCASED IMPLANT AND)	Confirmation No.: 1036
METHODS)	

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

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on
1/7/05

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL

In reply to the final Office Action mailed September 23, 2004, and pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.116, Applicants propose that this application be amended as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims in this paper.

Remarks follow the amendment section of this paper.